



## From the Pastor's Desk

<sup>2</sup> When [Jesus] returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. <sup>2</sup> So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. <sup>3</sup> Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup> And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

**Mark 2:1-5 (NRSV)**

The story of the paralytic man demonstrates a profound act of faith. The faith of the individual to want to seek out Jesus, but also of the four friends who were willing to carry him. Jesus had begun a preaching tour. Not unlike some modern-day itinerant or tent revival preachers, Jesus was drawing in large crowds. His words captured the hearts and minds of all those who listened. The paralytic man and his friends were undeterred by the crowds. They were singularly focused on reaching Jesus. They circumvented normal protocol or measures to reach Jesus at all cost. Because they understood that Jesus had lifechanging answers for them.

Today, we, too, may feel a desperate need for lifechanging answers. The current pandemic, political upheaval, and #BlackLivesMatter movement have exposed some of the paralyses in our society. We have succumbed to the disease of mind and body. Sometimes I feel like I am stuck in a state of worry. The fear that we are at risk of getting sick, of losing status (economic, social, political, or other forms of power) of being in the wrong seems to occupy our thoughts. For some, fear comes in the guise of personal autonomy, the ability to choose what we want when we want it. For some, fear is in the guise of personal safety, keeping others as far away as possible. Regardless, fear seems to hold a particularly strong grip on many, and the crowds of the fearful are keeping us from being able to reach Jesus at the center.

Counterintuitively, we may need to consider this passage from the book of Mark as a design for how to live in the world of uncertainty. Instead of worrying about what we may lose or the risks that we may face, maybe we are being called to find the most vulnerable among us. We can mimic the four persons who carried their paralytic brother to Jesus. When they were faced with barriers, they creatively found a solution and took whatever means necessary to see to his ability to encounter Christ. They focused on the needs of another rather than be enmeshed in self-pity or self-doubt. They took decisive action to ensure that their less able-bodied neighbor could receive the healing he needed.

How would this look in the case of a pandemic? Maybe it means taking safety precautions that feel inconvenient, not for our personal wellbeing but for the wellbeing of the most vulnerable among us. Washing our hands, wearing a mask, staying socially distant, purchasing groceries, or running errands, may all be ways to add to the safety of someone who is more at risk. How would this look in the case of political upheaval? Maybe it means remembering to whom we pledge our true allegiance. Instead of worrying about whether or not we choose the winning side, we can worry more about the decisions that are made by any political party or affiliation and how they affect the most vulnerable among us. How would this look in the case of #BlackLivesMatter? Maybe it means being so uncomfortable with the status quo that we are willing to read and educate ourselves about what it means to be an ally to our Black brothers and sisters. Maybe we are called to stand with those who seek change even if it feels uncomfortable or means that some of our personal safety and security are put at risk.

*Continued on page 2*

# Grateful for our Goodly Heritage

Continued from page 1



## 60 years ago: 1960

**July 17** - Keith Hochstedler is on the sea returning from his 2 years in Pax. He will be landing in N.Y. on July 22.

**July 17** - Tonight marks the close of the Augsburg Crusade. God has done great things for us for which we are thankful. There is still a lot of unfinished work. Many folks are still counting the cost. Let us be in prayer.

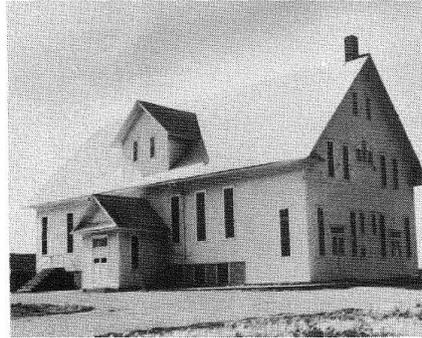
## 50 years ago: 1970

**July 5** - Janice Zook has left the States to attend school in three universities during the next year. She will be in universities in Vienna, Austria and in Germany.

**July 26** - We extend congratulations to William C. and Linda Miller Morgan who were married yesterday at First Mennonite Church in Chicago.

## 40 years ago: 1980

**July 27** - Recent memorials given to the church have been: 10 record players for the Primary and Junio Sunday School rooms from the Alma Schrock memorial fund and a solid oak table for the library room from the Lois Yoder memorial fund.



## 30 years ago: 1990

**July 1** - Congratulations to Dallas and Rosalyn Schrock on the birth of a daughter, Elizabeth Ann, born June 24. Congratulations to grandparents, Robert and Ruby.

**July 22** - The new banner "Live Simply so that others may simply live," was made by Carolyn Detweiler. We thank her for sharing her talents with us in this way.

## 20 years ago: 2000

**July 16** - Congratulations to Steve and Tina Dachtler on the birth of a 6 lb. 14 1/2 oz. daughter, Olivia Marie born July 9. Grandparents are James & Ruth Boller and Great-Grandparents are Martin & Leona Boller

## 10 years ago: 2010

**July 4** - The flowers in the front of the church have been cut from the hydrangea bushes that Pete and Clara Belle Schlabaugh planted and enjoyed at their home. The flowers are in loving memory of Clara Belle on the first anniversary of her passing.

**July 11** - Congratulations and best wishes to Aaron, April & Tori Schrock on the birth of a daughter and sister, Kenna Ranae. Kenna was born Thursday, July 8 and weighed 7 lbs. 12 oz. She is 20 inches long.

The friends of the paralytic man were not paralyzed. They chose to use their able-bodiedness, not to improve their own circumstances, but to literally carry their friend to meet Jesus when he was unable to do so himself. In the midst of many social stressors, maybe we are called to focus on others' well-being. The act of helping the paralytic man reach Jesus brought his four friends closer to Jesus, too. May we find hope in seeking the wellbeing of others. May we find peace amid worry. And may this bring us near to Jesus. May it be so.

Peace and blessings,  
pastor Joel Beachy

## I Dream A World

*By Langston Hughes*

I dream a world where man  
No other man will scorn,  
Where love will bless the earth  
And peace its paths adorn  
I dream a world where all  
Will know sweet freedom's way,  
Where greed no longer saps the soul  
Nor avarice blights our day.  
A world I dream where black or white,  
Whatever race you be,  
Will share the bounties of the earth  
And every man is free,  
Where wretchedness will hang its head  
And joy, like a pearl,  
Attends the needs of all mankind-  
Of such I dream, my world!

# Iglesia Zoar Summary



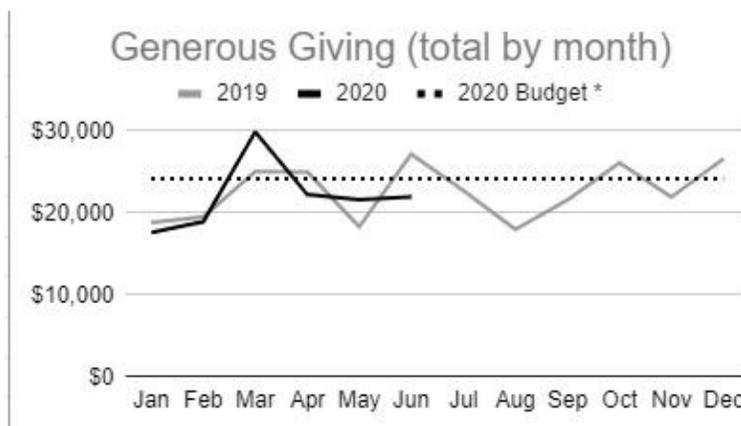
Over the past 7-plus years, East Union (EU) followed an invite from First Mennonite Church in Iowa City, and has been involved in the upstart ministry located on the canal banks and Rio Grande near Reynosa, Mexico. This ministry, through the leaders Jose and Raquel (no last names purposefully for safety reasons), has provided the people of Iglesia Zoar a church in the midst of the unknown of housing, immigration, and drug wars.

Our church has been involved and learned more of this ministry through visits by Jose and Raquel to Iowa on several different years, emails, and video updates, and by an EU Team learning trip to Reynosa in 2017. Prayer and financial donation support for the church and family included a land purchase to raise crops, Vacation Bible School offerings for food packets for the children along with matching funds from EU, and support for Raquel's kidney transplant surgery.

Last fall, the EU Team (Pastor Joel Beachy, Janet Geyer, Loren Hochstedler, Nyle Kauffman, Doug Stoltzfus) learned and then shared the news with EU that the Zoar ministry leaders were facing unforeseen personal circumstances that seriously impacted their ability to continue with their ministry. After meeting, and with no change in this status, the EU Team have decided to close this service opportunity. Currently donated funds from the VBS and others are being donated to several non-profit organizations that focus on reducing child hunger including locally (MP Backpack Program and Hillcrest Academy food gift cards for students with food insecurity) extended community (Table to Table food distribution program in Iowa City) and nationally and internationally (through Mennonite Central Committee with a focus on food for children).

We have learned a great deal about the struggles and challenges of attempting to immigrate to a location to try to provide a safe haven for families. And we have learned about the importance of ministry and support for these vulnerable people. While we thought we were blessing them, they and this opportunity have blessed us as much and more. We look forward to our next service opportunity.

For questions, please talk with one of the above team members and/or to Greg Yoder, Council Chair or Will Miller, Elder Chair.



\*\$320,000 budget - \$30,000 contribution made to Hillcrest Academy from the MEA Scholarship Fund. Approved by Church Council for the 2020 Budget Year.

# The Armor of God

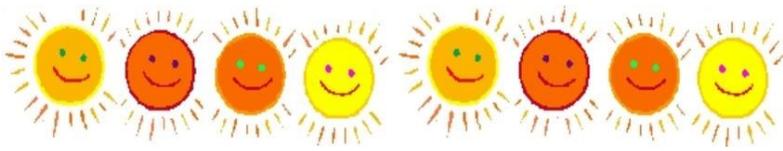
Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Ephesians 6:13

Based on Ephesians 6:13-17

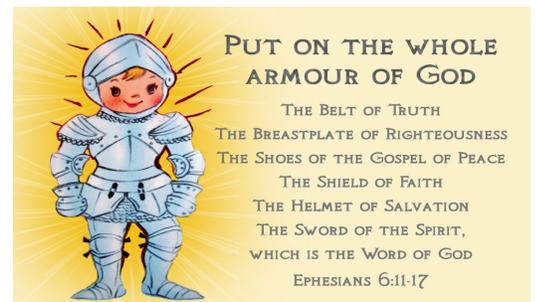


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WAIST	SALVATION	BELT	FEET	FAITH
FULL	GOD	EVIL	FLAMING	PEACE
GOSPEL	BREASTPLATE	SHIELD	BUCKLED	ARROWS



# JULY 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Jeff Yoder Donavon Yoder Dick & Jane Yoder-Short '79	2 Jane Miller	3	4 
5 <i>Morning Worship</i> Marvin Rempel	6 Halid Saner-Harvey	7 Owen Higdon Kyle & Allison Troyer '12	8 Paulette Hershberger Kenna Schrock	9 Emma Jean Schrock Olivia Dachtler	10 Alvin Miller Eve Yoder	11
12 <i>Morning Worship</i>	13 Caleb Detweiler	14 Cindy Dickel Luke Yoder Macy Yoder	15 Sandy Schlabaugh Randy & Jill Miller '06	16 Rena Miller Lynford & Ami Knepp '94	17 Joel & Christine Beachy '04 Chad & Annika Miller '93	18 Carey Miller
19 <i>Morning Worship</i>	20 Greg Yoder Tripp Carolan	21 Julia Boller Carolyn Detweiler Sandi Rhodes Jill & Thusan Hemachandra '12 Chuck & Jan Yoder '07	22 Lucas Beachy Dirk Logan LilaKate Milani Joe & Carrie Schmidt '00	23 Deb Miller Ava Miller Herb & Kathy Miller '83 Kara & Dominic Porter '11	24 Judy Yoder Ed Hershberger Randy Miller	25
26 <i>Morning Worship</i>	27 Dale Rhodes	28 Gaylord Yoder	29 Jacob & Hannah Geyer '12	30 Justin Boller Caleb & Heidi Detweiler	31 Allison Troyer Matt Miller	